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THE GATHERING OF THE PEACE CONGRESS.

REV. DR. ASPINWALL.

Vast nations under heaven's high dome
Send each their delegated band;
From brave Columbia's forest home,
And from the shores of father-land,

* * * * *

They come!

My ear drinks in the measured tread,
It steals upon me from afar;
They come! but not o'er heaps of dead,
Their tread is not the tramp of war.

They come!
But no red carnage tracks their heel,
No blood-stained banners do they wave;
They carry not the murderous steel,
Nor dig at each new step a grave.

They come!
Their numbers wave like fields of grain
Before the wind; their ranks increase;
Behold them as they march amain,
The armies of "*The Prince of Peace*."

They come!
And cry "*Not by might or power*
Shall this our Gospel cause hold good;
But yet as sure as comes the hour
Shall come our bond of brotherhood."

* * * * *

And *they are right!* Peace shall be given,
For them there's no such word as "fail!"
Their work is not of earth, but heaven,
And shall as heaven's own work prevail.

LIVERPOOL, ENGLAND, 1858.

A GREAT SUGGESTION FOR 1893.

The AMERICAN ADVOCATE OF PEACE AND ARBITRATION makes a proposal which will excite general attention. It is that on the occasion of the World's Fair and Columbian Exhibition of 1893, there should be held, not only the annual Inter-Parliamentary Conference and the annual Peace Congress, but a CONFERENCE OF NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS.

The ADVOCATE states that the United States Government will be solicited (by the American Peace Societies, we presume) "to invite all governments with which it has diplomatic relations to hold an international conference of official delegates during the Columbian Exposition.

"This conference, like the conference of the American States, popularly known as the 'Pan-American' Conference, will consist of persons appointed by the Governments which respond favorably to the invitation of the President.

"The chief subject for consultation, discussion and recommendation to their several Governments will be some plan or plans by which

"1st. National laws may be harmonized, and an international code constituted.

"2d. To consider and report on the feasibility of international treaties of arbitration, and of extending the same to all civilized countries.

"3d. To recommend measures for the establishment of a high court of tribunal which shall sit permanently,

and to which shall be referred ultimately all causes of international difference which cannot be adjusted by negotiations."

The ADVOCATE justly observes, in reference to this grand project, that the United States may lead in this matter, because they stand outside the disputes which endanger peace elsewhere, and because of the cosmopolitan character of her population, which prevents the existence of race prejudices and race antagonisms.

We heartily concur in this view; and the friends of peace throughout the world will desire anxiously to learn whether the United States Government will accept the challenge. We earnestly hope so.—*London Concord*.

HIDEOUS MATERIALISM.

J. FREDERICK GREENE,

The late General Von Moltke, unlike the Duke of Wellington, and many other great soldiers, who have regarded war as a painful necessity, was one of those who maintained that war was a good thing in itself. In answer to a delegation of friends of peace, he once gave the following answer: "War is holy, of divine institution; it is one of the sacred laws of the world; it keeps alive among men all the high, the noble feelings—honor, disinterestedness, virtue, courage—and, in a word, *prevents them falling into the most hideous materialism.*"

Away with such cant! But let us answer in the words of M. Guy de Maupassant, who quotes this saying in his work "*Sur l'Eau*," and thus replies to it: "So, to gather in herds of four hundred thousand men, to walk on day and night without rest, to think of nothing and study nothing, to learn nothing, to read nothing, to be of use to no one, to rot in mind, to live like brutes in perpetual stupidity, to plunder towns, to set villages on fire, to ruin nations; then to meet another mass of human flesh, to rush at it, make pools of blood, fields of minced meat, mixed with the muddy and reddened earth; heaps of corpses; to have the arms or legs carried away, the brain scattered, without any good to anyone, and to die in some corner, while your old parents, your wife and your children are dying from want of food. This is what is called not falling into the most hideous Materialism!" Strong words, these, but not too strong to condemn such a preposterous saying. Ask any honest man who has been present at a battle, and he will tell you that, so far from all the high and noble feelings of which man is capable being kept alive, they appear to be for the time being dead, and the vilest passions of man's nature absolutely run riot. A lust of killing is aroused, and the greatest difficulty is experienced in restraining men from committing the most cruel and abominable outrages; in fact the difficulty is frequently overwhelming, and deeds of nameless horror are done by so-called civilized men from which many a savage would shrink. No, Von Moltke was no hero of humanity, and in the ages to come, when men look back with surprise on the senseless war system, with its inevitable raising of barriers between the nations, his name will stand out merely as one of those—one of the last of those, we hope—who believed war to be a divine and necessary institution, and who tried, but failed as we believe all must ultimately fail, to prevent the welding together into one mighty whole of all the nations of the earth.—*The (London) Echo*.